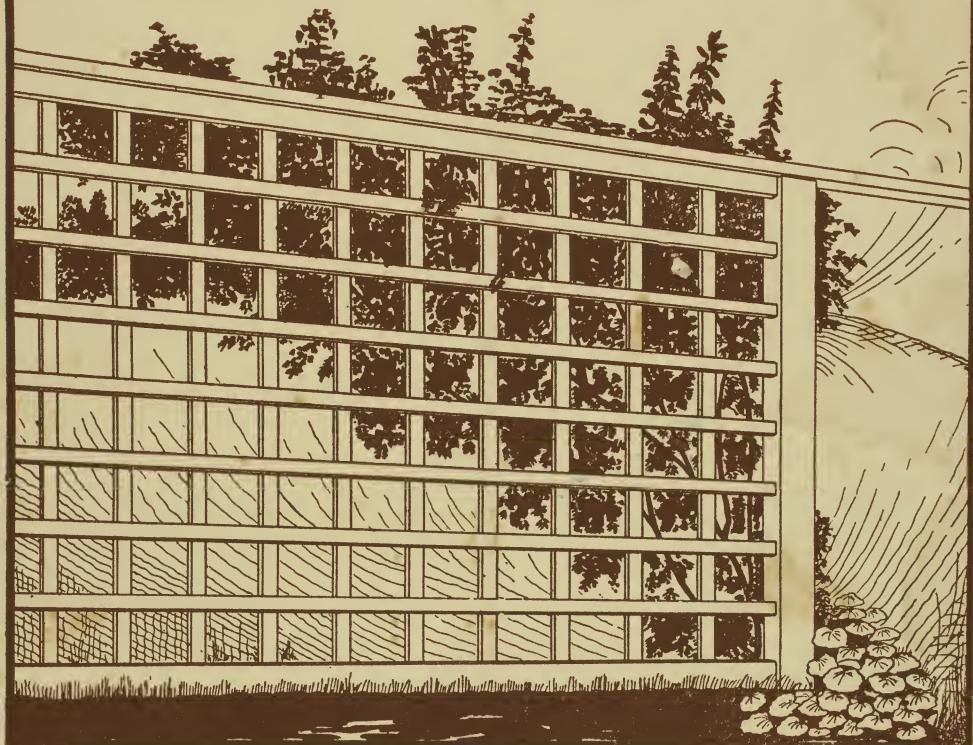


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2445 Albatross Street

# California Garden



## IN THIS NUMBER

A TRIP TO THE DESERT

IRIS HINTS

ACACIAS

BOUGAINVILLEAS

WONDERFUL DELPHINIUMS



JAN. 1926

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# The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association  
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

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Vol. 17

POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, JAN., 1926

No. 7

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## A TRIP TO THE DESERT

A visit to the desert during the wild flower season is an experience enjoyed seldom by the resident and never by the tourist. Yet the trip can be easily and comfortably made, for the opening of the new Banner grade brings the desert within a few hours' ride of the shore.

My personal interest in the desert is not that of the botanist, but of the conchologist and paleontologist. To me, the most interesting feature of desert physiography is the beach line of Lake Cahuilla, of which the Salton Sea is only a much shrunken remnant, and which was probably larger than any body of fresh water in the world today. And there is another beach line, of marine origin, which has been elevated by oscillations of the earth's crust, to a considerable altitude in the mountains. But it is impossible for anyone who really loves the desert not to be attentive to all of its features, and on every visit one perceives something new.

When Mr. Norman Lawson invited me to spend three days with him on the desert this year, it didn't take me very long to accept, with the result that New Year's morning found us crossing San Felipe Ranch below Julian. Here the road forks, the right branch leading through Vallecitos and Carrizo to Dixieland, and the other going northward through Sentenac canyon. There is not as much water flowing through Sentenac canyon as I have seen before, but below the canyon, where the San Felipe river loses itself in the sand, there are pools of slack water where I have never seen any before. A few miles along, the Geological survey has placed a sign reading, "Yaqui Well—water poor but drinkable—next water 18 miles." A little further and the walls of the valley close in, the road passing through the San Felipe Narrows, out on to the desert beyond.

The first plants to catch one's attention are the ocatillas. They are not in bloom yet, but I have never seen them covered with so much foliage. They are full of buds and will probably bloom better than ever this year. Another interesting plant, but very inconspicu-

ous, is a fungus resembling an ordinary mushroom as a closed umbrella resembles an open one. It is orange in color, but its spores resemble powdered cinnabar. And then one comes upon miles of sand verbena—apparently the same species that occurs on the sand dunes of the coast, but so far the desert has escaped the blasphemous defacement that has mutilated our beaches in the name of real estate development. Its purple flowers cover the ground in all directions, until the road approaches an empty mud lake near Borego. A recent rain had made this part of the road very sticky, and we advanced about half a mile while our speedometer registered perhaps three times that distance.

The principal vegetation at this point was a very coarse grass with wiry beard, and a turgid plant apparently belonging to the genus Guaeda. I have seen both of these luxuriating on the shore of False Bay, and their presence in the desert indicates that it is not the humidity, but the salinity of the soil that is the attractive factor. The ground is covered with fine, white crystals of alkali, resembling hoar frost.

It was at Borego Springs that I saw my first Phainopepla, in a creosote thicket. Phainopepla is not as rare a bird as Florence Merriam thought when she wrote, "Birds Through an Opera Glass," but to one whose introduction to ornithology was that same book, over twenty years ago, and who has waited all that time to see his first phainopepla, the sight of its upturned top-knot gave quite a thrill. However, that thrill was as nothing to one caused a few minutes later by the discovery of a dessicated carcass by the roadside, whose long bones and longer feathers indicated a bird of considerable size—certainly larger than a buzzard, perhaps an eagle, or the largest and rarest of all flying birds, the California Condor. But our illusions were shattered by the discovery of the beak, which indicated a pelican!

From Borego the road winds about circuitously to Clark Lake, our destination, and to save time we drove directly across the

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desert, stopping only twice—to dig ourselves out of a sand dune and to pick up a metate.

Clark Lake was visited in 1918 by the Geological survey. Subsequently when the Department of the Interior issued a water supply paper, they didn't visit the locality but merely noted that the Geological survey had found water there several years previously. We found it dry—the mud floor of the lake being divided by sun cracks, and extending for several miles in every direction. We crossed the lake bed and made our camp at Clark's Well, which is about twenty feet deep and lined with stove pipe. The bucket is a short length of narrower pipe, with a wooden bottom and leather valve, suspended on a piece of fence wire, and when dropped into the well strikes the water with a sound that reverberates upward like the croak of a bullfrog.

The mesquite is protectively armed with spines, second only to those of cactus, making it difficult to handle, and so we built a fire of dead mistletoe. There was a great deal of living mistletoe in the mesquite, but none of it had leaves. Whether this is a different species, or whether the leaves are deciduous we could not decide, but the absence of leaves on the ground, and the fact that stems were quite green, perhaps indicates that the mistletoe is not dependent on its leaves for photo-

synthesis.

After sunset the stars began to appear. I have never seen them more brilliant. Surely, this is how they must have looked to the psalmist when he wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God," and again, "When I consider the heaven \* \* \* what is man, that Thou art mindful of him?" Venus, about to follow the sun below the horizon, was the brightest object in the sky until the full moon rose, sending all the stars except Sirius to cover. Except for the barking and howling of coyote, and the vocal efforts of a stray donkey, the silence was uninterrupted.

I am really ashamed to tell what happened next, but not wishing to suppress such a good story, I proceed to relate it. I woke up to find the sun shining brightly, and a glance at my wrist watch disclosed that I had slept for twelve hours. After a hurried breakfast of bacon and eggs and a dill pickle (my favorite fruit) we essayed to explore the upper reaches of Borego valley.

We followed the road till the automobile tracks turned off, then we followed the wagon tracks as long as they were visible, then we followed a cowpath to where the sand had blown across and obliterated it, and we were apparently as far from the mountains as ever. The rocks about us appeared volcanic, and I was quite surprised to find a fossil oyster shell. But as we also found much broken pottery, possibly the Indians brought the shell from elsewhere.

The most striking vegetation was a flower resembling a miniature sunflower, but growing on a bush with smoky gray foliage like white sage. There was also a plant which I took to be Desert Evening Primrose. Its foliage lies flat on the ground, and its flowers, with four waxy white petals, possibly three inches across, stand about the same distance above the ground.

On our way back to Borego we saw the first specimens of humanity since leaving Julian. A broken down Ford occupied by the four toughest looking Alkali Ikes either of us had ever seen. So far from civilization, one expects at least to pass the time of day with strangers one meets, but this group merely looked disagreeable in silence. If these men had devoted the energy that they put into clearing away the brush from the face of nature to removing the superfluous growth from their own faces, I am sure they would have found the subsoil just as needful of irrigation. One of them had his gun across his knees, and so we turned out just enough to let them pass, and then stepped on the gas. Perhaps they were bootleggers and mistook us for revenue officers.

We went from here eastward to Imperial County—and the vegetation increased in color right up to the county line. The most strik-

*Continued on page 16*

**Patronize the Garden Advertisers.**

## IRIS HINTS

By S. S. Berry, Redlands, Cal.

From the point of view of sheer abundance of fresh garden color I doubt that there is any flower that can vie with the Iris. It is not as a florist's flower like the gladiolus that our subject can be pre-eminent, although it is well worth the trouble if any one will handle it properly. It exhibits at our shows well and charmingly, but still one does not stand in gaping awe before it as one does in beholding those great tousie monsters, the modern dahlia and chrysanthemum,—such perfect minotaurs of things as they are getting to be! Irises are lovely flowers to bring indoors, but only a few such as the Apogons and the best of the Regelias probably succeed in endearing themselves in quite the same way as our beloved roses and the daffodils. But out along those paths or in the border what have we that can compare with the rich, rainbow-tinted masses that the bearded Iris so lavishly yields,—the subtle appealing harmonies which delight us when a few well selected, carefully grouped clumps burst into that foaming billow of bloom which leaves us fair gasping at the amazing wonder of it all! Surely there are few garden pictures, however delightfully worked out, that cannot be rendered more enchanting by keeping the soft Iris colors ever fresh upon the palette to use lavishly where we will. Even the humblest garden can be so transfigured, for a little good taste in planting weighs heavier than gold or acres where we have the rainbow flower in view.

A common trait in human psychology is re-emphasized as we hear someone say to all this,—“I am so fond of Irises, but, do you know, they don't succeed with me. I guess it is my soil.” Yes, we all like to abuse our soil. We could hardly be true heirs to the generations of grumbling gardeners who have preceded us if we did not so indulge ourselves once in a while. But a bit of ground must be the most sorry kind of morass or rocky scrag if one cannot grow Irises upon it, and the chances are that he who has the worst patch of all will succeed in finding at least one species that he can manage well, if he will but persist patiently enough in his search. Very true it is that nearly all Irises have their peculiar and often emphatic likes and dislikes, but the categories are many and there are few indeed among the major groups which exactly duplicate one another in the special conditions they prefer. One must gain some general knowledge of the more important idiosyncrasies of the respective varieties and build accordingly. One can hardly hope to grow *pallida* Irises in a bog, but he can

grow the marsh-lovers, *versicolor*, *laevigata*, and the lovely tall yellow *pseudacorus*. In a very sandy soil many of the bearded Irises fail to yield their best, but certain bulbous species, which make the owner of a patch of heavy clay tear his hair in despair at their ungratefulness, will luxuriate most wantonly in the warmer soil. The Pogonirises, Regelias, and difficult Oncocycli are strongly calciphile,—many of the Apogons most perversely the contrary. There is one comfort,—although probably no one garden is able to grow all types equally well, almost any garden can grow some type to a perfection the enduring envy of all the others.

Just at present the chief fad is for Irises of the so-called bearded section,—not because they are necessarily the most beautiful so much as because they are adapted to a greater latitude of conditions in ordinary garden culture and likewise because more effective work has thus far been accomplished in this particular group by the hybridist. As a consequence the number of varieties is already legion and those who have never yet seen any of the real masterpieces of the pollen-brush in flower have a visual feast in store. Some of these, being represented by little stock as yet, are consequently notoriously rare and expensive,—flowers just now for the student, the hybridist, or the connoisseur. But fortunately not all of these we have are at once the finest and the most recent, and already such really splendid plants as **San Gabriel**, **Avalon**, **Edith Cavell**, **Conquistador**, **Wild Rose**, to run through a few names at random, are becoming more moderate in price, while a long list of others, including such beauties as **Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau**, **Ambassador**, **Ballerine**, **Soledad**, **Lent A. Williamson**, **Warrior**, **Magnifica**, the wild **mesopotamica**, and many another are by this time reasonable enough for even a quite modest purse. Among the still cheaper sorts, those priced at twenty-five to seventy-five cents each, we find not a few which would grace the most pretentious collection. The lovely **Isoleine** is now considered almost an old-timer, but of its particular type we seem even yet to have nothing to surpass or quite to equal it. **Edouard Michel** is said to have a rival in the offing in the new **Imperator**, but it will still take a surprising lot of beating just the same. **Prosper Laugier**, **Nuee d'Orage**, **Alcazar**, **Fairy**, **Arsace**, **Quaker Lady**, **Seminole**,—all these and others among the inexpensive ones are still aristocrats. The beautiful **Princess Beatrice**, alas, is one of those which though

often easy, under some conditions is quite difficult to manage. It is ever worth trying nevertheless.

An eminently satisfactory procedure when one is purchasing a collection of Irises for the first time, whether one's budget allowance be large or small, is to divide the sum in two portions, expending the half on the older proven sorts, and the remainder on one or more examples of the choice uncommon novelties. The former, especially if one has had the wisdom to group several roots of a kind, will yield abundant immediate effect, the latter will increase for the future and meanwhile lend fine distinction to the garden.

In Southern California it is no difficult matter to select, say, a dozen sorts of Irises so as to have at least one variety in flower every month in the year, but that is a story in itself which may well be left for another communication.

#### CHRONICLES OF THE GARDEN

By Mrs. Francis King.

(Charles Scribner's Sons, 1925, \$3.00)

This latest work from the pen of one of our best known authors in this field is for those who enjoy a somewhat rambling and desultory volume, a book to pick up and dabble in as the mood impels rather than a connected treatise to devour at a sitting. It is a series of sketches, not, alas, sharing in equal degree the spontaneity which is the source of such charm in the best writings of this author, but covering such a variety of subjects that perhaps such expectation in each and every instance would be demanding too much. Furthermore it happens that the present reviewer never finds Mrs. King so entertaining when she is describing some distant flower show in absentia, or preaching out of catalogues (a curious and frequent habit of hers), as when she is vivaciously pouring forth for our delectation the ripened products of her own observations and experiences.

Different readers will profit variously from the respective portions of the book, whether it be the "Spring Rhapsody" which forms the opening essay, or the chapter wisely devoted in toto to those too little appreciated flowers, the daffodils, or the one on flowering shrubs, which Mrs. King strongly recommends our more frequently growing from seed), or the especially delightful chapter on "Seats and Steps in the Garden", well filled as it is with helpful suggestions, or such lesser detail as the Daniel Webster anecdote on p. 197! But there is a universal appeal to be found in that the gardens which Mrs. King interprets always seem possessed of a philosophical inclination, and furthermore their philosophy is

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very human. "If the men and women with the small plot could only be convinced of what the little garden would do for them", writes she, "of what variety it gives to colorless or dull existence" (or, she might well have added to this, of the surcease it brings amid the mad wear and tear of a civilization which has not yet caught up with itself); "of what surprises, what pleasures wait upon them in the little garden, it would not then be long before the leaves of Vallombrosa were outnumbered by the little gardens of America."

This is worthy evangelism and inclines us to forgive the confusion of the Corsican Mint with the thymes, the covering of our own Southern California with "volcanic soil", the mislabeled "cypresses" in the illustration opposite p. 168, and such other occasional perplexities as Iris "pallida dalmatica Queen of May."

"A Word to the Wise" is an excellent dissertation on Garden Clubs, while the usual and discursive notes on garden books in the essay entitled "Gardening in Winter" will be enjoyed by many readers.

The concluding chapter is a moving appeal for the realities as against all the stultifying mechanical things of our present day environment,—the piano and violin rather than the jazz phonograph and radio, the garden than the automobile. "Thank heaven, one cannot turn a crank and grow flowers!"

The book is well illustrated and as a sort of appendix at the end we find a series of architect's sketches of simple dwellings, to each of which Mrs. King has appended a specific paragraph of her own planting suggestions.

S. S. B.

# The Jan. and Feb. Gardens

## THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

The long spell of dry weather makes irrigation and cultivation strictly in order at this writing (25th inst.) and as the night air is cold and the nights long thorough cultivation is very beneficial in the heavier soils to admit air and sunlight. It is also better to do your sprinkling or irrigating in the morning, rather than at night, so as not to perish the young and tender plants, and if you are doing much setting out of plants a little protection from the sun and wind will help a lot. Pieces of shingles stuck in the ground are a handy thing or a little loose strawy mulch round the plant is good.

On ground not now occupied, which you intend to utilize later, get busy now and thoroughly spade and fertilize, so that it may be ready for planting and sowing in the early spring.

Last month's directions for the vegetable garden apply equally well now, so continue to plant and sow all hardy vegetables, not forgetting asparagus, horse radish and rhubarb roots. Also strawberry plants. One of the favorites this year is the Klondyke Strawberry, which comes into bearing early and continues until fall, if you give proper irrigation fertilization and cultivation.

Remember January and February are the best months for setting out deciduous fruit trees and berries, also for pruning same. In planting dig large deep holes, so that the roots have plenty of room for their "natural lie," and plant an inch deeper than they were in the nursery. In filling in use top soil first, and if ground has not got plenty of moisture, wet down well when hole has been three-quarters filled with soil, and before leveling press down well with your feet. A little well rotted manure scattered on the surface round trees will help to conserve moisture and gradually fertilize trees. Deciduous trees should be cut back to 3 or 4 feet in length when planting, and trees planted last year should be well cut back if they have made a strong growth, always bearing in mind that you are now beginning to shape the full grown tree.

January and February are the best months for planting bare root rose bushes and there is an ever increasing demand for this Queen of Flowers. In planting, the same general

directions that apply to deciduous fruit trees apply equally well to the rose, which like a sunny location, heavy soil, generous fertilizing and plenty of water. Do not sprinkle your rose bushes, either basin round them or run furrows, letting the water run long enough to thoroughly soak the subsoil.

A watering like this from one to two weeks apart, according to the time of year should be sufficient. The winter and spring months are the ideal time for setting out gladiolus bulbs. This wonderful flower is growing in popularity all the time, and the number of new creations and hybridizations from the prominent growers is truly remarkable. The gladiolus is of easy culture and will grow well in any fairly good soil, ground being well fertilized with well rotted manure, which should not be allowed to come in contact with the bulbs. Plant bulb from 4 to 6 inches deep, according to the lightness or heaviness of your soil and water quite liberally when plants are a few inches high. In planting remember that the blooms always face south and west or in other words follow the sun. Los Angeles, abalone pink is a wonderful new introduction, and Alive Tip-lady, Gretchen Lang, Virginia, Prince of Wales, Mrs. Frank Pendleton, are a few of the popular ones that come to mind.

## UNFAILING FRIENDS

They never disappoint—the trees. Sometimes our friends are hard to please. They hurt us with a look, a word, a sharp retort—perhaps, absurd to be so hurt by little things. A tree no sorrow ever brings. Sometimes the best of friends do fail; sometimes courageous spirits quail; of nothing can we certain be—except of that good friend, the tree.

This thought I had the other day as I went buoyant on my way, and saw the trees all newly dressed, like ladies in their Sunday best! Such lovely trees, young leaves like lace, such eloquent yet quiet grace.

I looked at them and seemed to hear, "We've come, you see, again, this year. You loved us and we said we'd come." Vocal, indeed, are trees, not dumb. Clearly we hear their gracious words sung to the orchestra of birds. Beauty and shade and gentle breeze—they never disappoint, the trees;

WILHELMINA STITCH.  
The London Graphic, May 30.

# The California Garden

Editor

Alfred D. Robinson

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

## The San Diego Floral Association

P. O. Box 323 San Diego, Cal.

Main Office, Point Loma, California

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Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post office at Point Loma, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.  
California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association.

### ADVERTISING RATES

One Page	\$15.00	Half Page	\$7.50
Quarter Page	3.75	Eighth Page	2.00
Advertising Copy should be in by the 20th of each Month			

Subscription, \$1.00 per year

McKELVEY'S  
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### EDITORIAL

We do not hold with the adjetivally galumph that our local scribes, in fact any local scribe, indulge when boasting their own peculiar virtues or cussing the shortcomings of others. We do not think that all Florida is a glacier nor that mere figures of rainfall grow crops, but we do admit that San Diego has been a mighty pleasant place to live this so-called winter, it has not been the winter of our discontent. A lot of folks from elsewhere have sensed the same condition, and everywhere new homes show that they want more of this same kind of thing.

As an academic proposition it is probable the members of the San Diego Floral Association would admit that they owe something to each and every one of these new homes, but possibly they woul dbe startled if faced with a direct obligation in each case to help and advise with the garden. And yet for that very thing they came into existence as an organization.

The Floral Association has always been different, lots of folks have joined it just for that reason, and part of its difference lies in its modesty. If a fair statement of what it offers in the way of garden help and garden sociability could be handed to all these new home builders, the vast majority of them would become members. Now it is obvious that both sides want each other and it surely would be but neighborly if every Floral Mem-

ber would give each new comer in the neighborhood a chance to join. Unless some approach is made to these folks by the organization they are left, for garden purposes to whoever gets the job of fixing up the grounds and the most unsafe experience they have acquired in other places. This brings us to an idea we have been maturing for a long time, and that is that it is a mistake to try and plant all of any garden in the beginning. We know this is almost revolutionary, we can hear the startled comment, What, leave the grounds bare or half finished so that the passer-by says, Humph did not have enough money to finish the job, but we must persist in believing that the best of the garden is in the making of it. Possibly the prevalent lack of interest in the garden, except as a necessary finish to a house, is due to the fact that most folks have had little, or nothing beyond paying the bill, to do with the making of the garden. A real garden can never be finished, we have said that before, but it is nevertheless true. It is impossible to think of a garden so complete that nothing could be found in a season to add or subtract. Even were such an abnormality possible it would lose its hold because there would be nothing to do in it but walk through and admire. Were it possible to make every owner of a garden work in it, at some creative part of it such as planting a new thing, pruning, remodeling, not just cutting the grass and holding the hose, compulsion would not be necessary after a month, in most cases. Let us consider golf, we have watched men, women and others intensively chase that poor little white ball uphill and down dale, we have seen them posturing and doing a sort of turkey trot getting ready for the best whack ever and wondered at their absorption, but we have never tried it, we are afraid to, for we know many with more resistance thn ourself who have fallen victims both to the game and its peculiar language, we cannot afford to take chances. The garden game is just as insidious, once inoculated never immune. It is a game any one can play in this wonderful land.

Our national government is considering the establishment of a National Arboretum at Washington on what is known as the Mount Hamilton Tract on the shore of the Anacostia River, which includes in its four hundred acres a wide range of conditions that would be favorable to a large variety of plants and trees. The idea is that within this area a continuous trial of new things from all over the world would be made under conditions safeguarding the country from the dangers always present in importations not so regulated. It would also be a sort of tree museum, a kind of growing encyclopedia, which would be an immense help in standardizing nomenclature now quite mixed in man species.

The advantage of the foundation of this feature is so obvious that it is surprising it has not been done before.

We wish to personally express our regret that L. A. Blochman found it necessary to resign his place as President of the Floral Association and Associate Editor of this magazine. He was present at the meeting that organized the San Diego Floral Association, signed the first roll, had before served a term as President and possibly attended as many meetings as any member. He has gone to San Francisco, and the fact that that city needs folks of his type does not reconcile us altogether because we can't forget our loss by thinking of its gain. However, he will come back, we lived in San Francisco before we came to San Diego, but we have never gone back and we know.

#### SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

The regular monthly meeting for January was held on Jan. 19th, at 7:30 p. m., in the Floral Association Home, Balboa Park.

This meeting was in a way of a reception for our returned members, Mrs. Herbert Evans, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Strauss, Miss Alice Halliday and Miss K. O. Sessions, all of whom have been abroad the past year, also for Mrs. Marshall O. Terry, who was in the East and South for a long period. While Coronado claims Mrs. Terry as a resident, she has always been a loyal member of the San Diego Floral Association. All had much of interest to tell of what they saw and heard abroad.

On account of the lateness of the hour Mrs. Herbert Evans deferred her talk till sometime in the near future. This talk is being looked forward to with interest by the members and friends of the Association. On account of the illness of Mrs. Rutan our capable Secretary, no minutes of the preceding meeting were given.

A letter from Mr. Blochman, resigning as President, on account of his removal from the city to San Francisco, where he will hereafter reside, was read and accepted. Mrs. Greer, chairman, made a strong plea for the Library, stating that it was always open for visitors every Thursday afternoon. New reference books are continually being added, most of the horticultural periodicals are to be found on the table each month, and much valuable information can be had. A request was also put that those who have anything worth while in their gardens in bloom at the time of the meetings, should bring specimens to the meetings for the benefit of others.

After a social hour, during which cake and coffee were served, the meeting adjourned.

MARY A. MATTHEWS,  
Acting Secretary.

80 Osborne Road,  
West Hartford, England,  
October 12, 1925.

Dear Readers:

I am almost ashamed to acknowledge that I should have written long before now, but you must take the will for the deed, and in proof of that you will see my two papers weekly in the library, so that if I have not written you will see I have remembered you every Monday morning that comes. Well we had a wonderful summer for this part of the world. The gardens were wonderful, asters, stocks, godetias and in fact all annuals were beautiful. Vegetables of all kinds have done very well, potatoes being a bumper crop. Roses have done exceedingly well. Los Angeles and Madam Butterfly have been glorious, in fact I cut the last bloom off the former the first week in November. But we are not so favored as you in regards to the weather, although you may wish for a little more water than you get (try Hatfield). The end of the first week in November found us in the grip of the most terrible frost we have known for over thirty years. Everything was frozen stiff and for a month this continued day and night, accompanied by very black sea fogs. At the end of that time we were enveloped in a terrible blizzard, the snow being inches thick in one night. This continued for three days with the result that there were several accidents to motors, horses and human beings. It began to thaw four days ago and since then we have had severe rain storms and cold east winds off the sea, enough to cut one's face off. As I am writing the wind is howling outside and it takes us all our time to keep warm, even sitting near a good fire. So if any of you want a cooler climate, come over here between November and February. You may stop a day or two, but fancy you will be taking the first ship back to Sunny California. You will thus see that gardening in this part of the globe is not so easy as with you and it is up to all of you to thank your lucky stars that you have the climate and opportunity to grow the most beautiful flowers and fruits in America, and also to make San Diego second to none as a beautiful city for visitors and citizens to live in. I was delighted to read Miss Sessions' impressions of her visit to this country and should only have liked to have caught her tripping about Kew Gardens. I have heard a lot about her and only the other day had a letter from the gardening editor of one of our papers saying how delighted they were to hear her address to the Garden Club last May. I fancy she has left behind her an impression that will not be easily forgotten. Now I must close up and in doing so hope you will all have a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a very healthful and prosperous New

Year. You have done well in all your efforts at the various meetings and flower shows, but you can do better, remembering, "United we stand, divided we fall." Let 1926 be a thumping record! Cheerio.

Very truly yours,

W. C. KING.

### ACACIAS

By John G. Morley.

The Acacias are among the most popular of the trees that are planted in Southern California. They are planted in large quantities both for landscape development and street and avenue planting and have proved to be one of the finest of all the trees to thrive under our climatic conditions, which resembles to a great extent, the climatic conditions of Australia, where most of them are natives.

One reason for their popularity is the abundance of yellow flowers produced through a long period with successive varieties, commencing in December with the variety *Podalyraefolia*, *Baileyania* in January and continuing with *Latifolia*, *Dealbata*, *Decurrens*, *Mollisima*, *Melanoxylon*, *Prumosa*; *Elatia*, *Cultriformis*, *Saligna*, *Cyanophylla*, *Pynenantha*, *Armata* and *Verticillata*, well into the summer, and with *Acacia Floribunda* in almost continuous bloom throughout the year.

The foregoing were the varieties commonly used until the past few years, during which several others have been added in other sections of the state.

In San Diego a number of other varieties grown from seed brought from Australia for the Park Department by Mr. Thos. Faulconer former secretary of the San Diego Zoological Society a year ago, plants from which will soon be ready for planting out in the park system and which we hope will prove to be as good and even better than some of the varieties now grown. Descriptions of a portion are here noted: *Acacia Juniperiana*, a shrubby variety grows to height of 8 to 12 feet, stiff habit, branchlets pubescent or smooth, flowers in May and June.

*Acacia Aneura*, shrubby variety with terete branches lined with gum along the longitudinal fissures, flowers in spring.

*Acacia brachybotra*, tall shrub or small tree.

*Acacia disolor*, tall shrub or small tree with pretty flowers in late spring.

*Acacia prominens*, this variety has been under cultivation in other parts of the state; blooms in February and March, has not produced seed in California, where it has been grown; we hope to have better results in San Diego.

*Acacia Penninervis* (Mountain Hickory),

tree 40 to 80 feet high, with pale yellow flowers; one of the best

The following varieties are those of which we have no description, but from the habit of growth in the nursery, I believe they will be well worth growing in the park system.

*Acacia Buxifolia*, *A. Salicina*, *A. Decora*, *A. Sendula*, *A. Spectabilis*, *A. Hapeoides*, *A. Adunca*, and *A. Difformis*.

### GARTER BOUQUET

An Associated Press dispatch under Philadelphia date line tells the following:

"The 'garter bouquet' is the latest creation as an accessory to milady's dress. It was designed by a Philadelphia florist, and is worn below the knee.

"The 'garter bouquet' consists of lily-of-the-valley, sweet peas, heather and feathers, bound with a ribbon to match the wearer's gown or hose. It is intended for wear especially at dances."

## NOTICE

After Jan. 1st our gardens and entire stock of 600,000 Gladiolus, 50,000 Dahlias, bulbous plants, etc., will be moved to our new location at 702 E. 24th St., National City, Calif., where we will be pleased to have you visit us. Please address all communications to Ralph F. Cushman, Glad-Dahlia Gardens, R. 1, Box 166, National City, Calif. Telephone Nat. 235

**Ralph F. Cushman**

GLAD—DAHLIA GARDENS

## REVIEWING THE ROSES

Reviewing the Rose season of 1925, the fact is impressed upon the grower that some of the old-time varieties are more firmly entrenched than ever in popular favor—and for good reasons. Gen. MacArthur, for example, has not been displaced as a bright crimson Rose with high perfume. It is a strong growing Rose and has the great merit of blooming especially well in the autumn. Laurent Carl is another old time Rose which blooms constantly well year after year, its deep carmine blooms keeping well when cut. Lady Ursula, too, repeatedly demonstrates its value, especially in northern gardens.

The deep cream Harry Kirk is particularly handsome in the bud, showing much deeper color than when the flower unfolds. It, like Gen. MacArthur, is especially to be recommended for its autumn blooms. Pharisaer is still being planted, and is an excellent Rose except for its unhappy tendency to acquire mildew.

Of the newer Roses which have been tried out for a year or two, Mrs. Henry Morse is particularly pleasing. The buds are almost perfect, having a bright rose color suffused with vermillion.

Souvenir de Claudius Pernet continues variable, the reports from some gardens are most enthusiastic while from others there are tales of mildew and black spot. As a matter of fact, all the Pernetiana Roses must be very carefully watched and treated faithfully with the Massey dust if black spot is to be escaped.

Souvenir de George Pernet, the petals of which have a beautiful gold base while a sheen of yellow gives the whole flower a glowing color, bloomed unexpectedly well in the autumn, and in a few gardens where Angele Pernet was to be found, visitors were enthusiastic over the large flowers and rich bronze color. This Rose is a free and continuous blomer, but tender.

Mabel Morse is destined to rank high, apparently, among the yellow Roses, although unfortunately it is not a very strong grower. The color is glorious, and while it fades somewhat, it does not lose its color to such an extent as Christine or Golden Emblem. The color is not quite so soft as that of Souvenir de Claudius Pernet, and is not held as well. Few of these yellow Roses seem to have much perfume, and Golden Emblem, although possessing remarkably good foliage which seldom mildews and putting out lovely buds, is not very satisfactory as an expanded flower.

Imperial Potentate has much merit. This is an American Rose originated on the western coast, with Ophelia as one of its parents.

It makes a vigorous growth, has few thorns, and blooms continuously throughout the summer. It has proved unusually valuable for a garden Rose in Portland, Oregon, but seems to be equally well adapted to the New England climate.

Lady Craig is an Irish Rose, the distribution of which is very limited as yet, but which has great promise. As grown by Mrs. Harriett R. Foote, at Marblehead, Mass., the past season, it made a very vigorous plant, blooming profusely and suggesting its wide use as a bedding variety. The color is deep orange with a yellow tint.

A great number of gardeners have been growing Rev. F. Page-Roberts. It is a large Rose with good foliage, apparently mildew proof, although sometimes being attacked by black spot.

K. of K. continues to merit the praise given it when it first appeared. It is larger than Red Letter Day, although similar in color, being a brilliant red. Like most red Roses it is fragrant and it is unusually free flowering. It is particularly a garden Rose and can be used successfully either for bedding or for making a low hedge.

As grown in New England, Hawlniark Crimson, a Rose of the same type, has given an excellent account of itself. This new Rose has larger flowers than those of Red Letter Day, the color being crimson-scarlet. The blooms are almost single and are produced on low branching, fairly vigorous plants. For a decorative garden Rose it promises to be among the best.

Several Rose growers in whose gardens Constance has been given a trial consider it a very handsome rose indeed. It is one of Pernet Ducher's productions, has orange buds streaked with crimson and opens into fine globular flowers. Unfortunately it is subject to black spot, often losing its foliage. Moreover, it is not as hardy as one might wish. In a garden where a little coddling can be given, however, Constance is a gem.—From Horticulture.

### THE MEXICAN PEACOCK TIGER IRIS

The tigridia pavonia or Mexican peacock tiger iris as it is commonly called, is a bulbous plant which has been off the market for some years. It has large blossoms of a brilliant orange-red, and blooms every day for two months in the summer.

The bulbs are now obtainable and CALIFORNIA GARDEN will be glad to furnish details on request.

# BOUGAINVILLEAS

By K. O. Sessions.

The first Bougainvillea planted in San Diego was *B. Spectabilis*, a very strong grower, with very velvety foliage and intensely deep magenta flowers or floral bracts. Today there are but a few specimens of this sort to be seen here. Its color is so intense and it needs to be at least five years old before it will bloom, so that other sorts have pushed it out of use apparently. However, it has a real value—principally in our parks. On the front of the Coronado Library, at the right-hand corner, is a splendid specimen in full bloom. On the lefthand corner is the *Bougainvillea glabra*, and it certainly looks very puny in comparison.

Our fine and glorious *Bougainvillea lateritia* came to San Diego from a San Francisco nursery in 1887. It is the brick-colored sort and is botanically described as a variety of *B. spectabilis*. Both of these are winter bloomers and both have soft and velvety leaves. This brick-colored variety is very fine just now about the city. At the residence of Mr. Frank Garrettson, on Kalmia and Front, the roof of the garage is beautiful with the mass of color. Miss Sara Brock, on Hermosa Way, has a fine plant in her patio. William T. Johnson, at north end of Trias street, has a splendid specimen on the tiled roof of his garage. The vine on the garage of C. G. Blanden, Avalon Drive, though but three years old, is in fine color, and there are many other fine plants in all parts of the city, and no other city in California can make such a showing of this variety.

Some fifteen years ago, *B. glabra*, variety *Braziliensis*, was started in San Diego. It has a smooth green leaf and is decidedly a summer bloomer. It is far superior to all the other magenta colored varieties, both for its foliage and the size of flower and softer tone of color. The *B. glabra*, variety *Sanderiana*, is the poorest of all; small leaf, smaller blooms, and color a washed-out magenta. It is this variety that is grown for pot specimens throughout the east.

Only a few years ago, the Bureau of New Plant Importations at Washington, D. C., sent out a new colored sort from Venezuela, now known as "Crimson Lake". It grows fast and blooms all the time and is a fine addition to our collection of vines. The flowers are quite small and in color "Crimson Lake" describes it. Its specific name has not been made known. There is said to be a yellow and a white sort in Rio Janeiro, and with the address of the growers we may be able to secure it.

There is a variety known as *B. glabra Catalina*, or *rosea*, that is a delicate, soft pink shade when grown under glass, but in the open it is a very bright rosy color, or a light, soft magenta tint.

A few seedling Bougainvilleas have been discovered in gardens here, proving this to be the perfect climate for their development. Certainly San Diego can show more fine plants than any city of Southern California. They are sensitive to cold, so are not successful in many places in the State.

*Bougainvilleas* begin their growth in June, so they should have their pruning done in May, and that is the best time of the year to plant them. They flourish best in a warm and sheltered situation and their best development is when they can lie on top of a roof, as on a garage, shed, or porch top. The soil should be loose and light and well-drained. Adobe is very unfavorable for their growth. Large and strong plants are the best to plant, and one plant for a place is sufficient—they grow so large.

The *B. lateritia* variety is the safest to plant, as its color is more harmonious with other colors in the garden. The purple sorts are so gorgeous and the color so trying, that they should be planted at the rear, where they do not come in contact with the garden flowers in general. Pale blue, like *Plumbago*, white and light yellow, are safe foils for this intense color. To allow this vine to grow into a tree gives the best effect of all locations.

## DESTROYING WILD FLOWERS

The public must yet be educated to value and enjoy the plant life of fields and woods without destroying them and the plant and flower trade may aid. Selfishness and ignorance are unlimited in consideration for the most interesting wild flowers. In many places and for many purposes are the brightest colored flowers picked and pulled with their roots from their native soil, often for decorating schools, churches, etc.

The blossoms dragged out of their homes are useless for decorative purposes, and are like so many slaughtered innocents. What is needed is to educate the people to the broader and higher plane of human love for plant life, so they can enter into the nature-world with eyes and ears opened to the beauties around them. One will gain more real knowledge of the influence of nature by rightly turning the heart and eyes to see that the work that at present can be done for the wild flowers and ferns, is to protect the mute little friends of the woods, fields, hills and streams, that they may be an every-varying beauty and joy everywhere. In this direction can true education of mind, heart and eyes be developed and florists and plant dealers may help much.—Western Florist.

## THE LATH HOUSE

By Alfred D. Robinson.

This is the time of year we are thinking about planting seed, the highly intriguing catalogues are in the mail, and we have sharpened our little pencils and have marked more kinds of things than the average garden could possibly accommodate, for that is the way of us. We shall, if wise, go over that list again and again, reducing it gradually to a common sense basis, but the amount of seed that is ordered and paid for and then never planted makes me think of what the original Colman of mustard fame said about his business, which was that he made his money, not out of the mustard people used, but from that they wasted. However, go to it, for there are many worse way of spending money than wasting it on seeds, and so that you may the better get good value, I propose to once more discuss, in an offhand sort of way, the problem of raising lath house things from seed.

Recently I read under a well-known signature that Begonias were easily raised from seed and that fine plants of the Rex sort could be grown from this start in five months, and ever since I have been hunting the technique so that I could apply it and pass it on to you, but alas, the bald statement is all there is of it, so you must accept, if with little contentment, the result of my experience. One class of Begonia, the so-called bedders, Vernons, Luminosa, Erfordi, etc., are the easiest to handle and give the quickest results, and then come the tuberous, followed by the Fibrous with the Rex bringing up the rear most deliberately.

In the bedders there are now such a number that selection is getting difficult, still to any one who can pick a dahlia or gladiolus out of the multitude offered, picking a Begonia should be a picnic indeed.

Locally the Red Erfordi has proven of great value in almost any situation with its brilliant blooms and coppery foliage, but a feeling is forming that the colored foliage detracts from the blossom and this past winter the florists were asking for a good red with green foliage to contrast. Flame of Love, the new one last season, though larger in bloom is not so well adapted to this climate.

The Pink Luminosa, lovely in partial shade, does not like the sun.

In dwarf whites there is nothing better than Helen Bofinger.

The Seashells, originated by Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd, are the most vigorous of all, and can now be had in the first color, white with pink edge, white, white edged orange and self pink.

I have dwelt considerably on this class because it is the Begonia for the million, and probably in it will come the greatest popular development for the future. Europe grows them in millions, and each season sees a new one offered. Seed planted now should be in bloom by early summer and continue throughout the year.

The Tuberous must be planted early, as it requires some time to make a tuber of sufficient size to carry over the next winter. Many will flower the first year.

The fibrous, meaning the Rubra and Tree Type generally, will not bloom till the next season, and not all of them till another year.

The Rex will only reach the small plant size in a season and a glass house is a necessity for their handling. The seed germinates slowly and irregularly but the results, if any, are worth all the trouble.

Now as to seed planting, etc. Begonia seed is much smaller than any seed ought to be. The purchaser of a packet always thinks he is being skimped, whereas the majority of envelopes contain more seed than the average person should be allowed to have at one time. Planting too thickly is a besetting sin, I don't really know what kind of a sin that is, but it is the kind Begonia cranks have. Various formulas have been invented to offset this tendency to crime and the most successful, outside of restricting the amount of seed, has been to advocate the mixing of the seed with several times its bulk of finely sifted soil or sand, at all a coarse compound is useless because the object is to segregate the seed. This mixture is sifted evenly on the top of a bed prepared as follows in a box or seed pan. Over the drainage hole place a piece of fine screen wire, then a layer of coarse material such as has been sifted out of the fine material that forms the top layer, the whole should be well compacted and soaked with boiling water. Don't attempt to put the seed in the soil nor even press it in, for much of it will adhere to the presser. Much difference of opinion exists as to what kind of soil to use. Leaf mold is undoubtedly good if it is not a masquerader, many fearful things pose as leaf mold in this land of so much more sunshine than rain, but any good sandy loam that will not readily pack will serve and a safety first practice is to mix with it a generous amount of powdered charcoal, or to use coarser charcoal in the drainage lower layer. When the planting is done cover the pan with a pane of glass, an old photographic negative is good, and keep in

the dark till germination starts when it should be gradually brought into the light but never direct sunlight. As the plants develop soil should be sifted in to get them firmly rooted. Watering should be by soaking from below and RAINWATER IS HALF WAY TO SUCCESS. In opposition to most authorities and therefore, with due apology, I state that my experience does not endorse pricking out the seedlings very early, I practice leaving them in the seed box till they have a regular root system, of course, if the planting be very thick this can not be done. Apropos of this hurry up pricking out it might be interesting to mention that a new instrument for the purpose has appeared in the East, a modulated sugar tong, the spoons of which are inserted on either side and the happy seedling lifted like a bonbon.

When the plants are well established put them in small pots, Begonias don't seem to like flats.

Other plants that can be raised from seed and belong in the lath house group are Streptocarpus, Gloxinias, Santpaulia, Fern spore, etc. The technique is similar with all but the fern and that must be kept wet instead of moist.

It now occurs to me that I have said nothing about temperature for the seed sprouting. The maximum temperature for Begonia seed I place at seventy, but sixty is as good if you are not impatient, the Streptocarpus also are cool plants, but Gloxinias love heat. The range of temperature for success is quite liberal. A box in a sunny window, covered from the light of course, even at this season will sprout and grow most Begonia seed.

Now a word about the reasons for growing Begonias from seed when you can steal slips and beg tubers or possibly buy these and plants. It is generally conceded that continuous propagation from cuttings, especially with plants grown under artificial conditions tends to weaken the family constitution and often runs it out altogether. The surest way to maintain vigor is to keep going back to the seed, selecting, of course, the best as seed parents. The Begonia family, especially the Rex, propagated very intimately by leaf cuttings, has suffered very greatly for want of the continuous renewal of blood by seedlings. Thirty years ago a firm in Indiana carried in stock and catalogued under specific names over one hundred Rexes, today it is doubtful whether with one exception any house has twenty.

Outside of this half-altruistic reason for the ordeal by seed, is the intense interest of watching for variations and breaks in the seedlings. Since the passing of Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd of Ventura, no nurseryman of the Pacific slope has done anything in Be-

gonia breeding till Rosecroft took it up, and it should be a stimulus to just read the list of the varieties she introduced, take one Marjorie Daw. Is there any of you that would fail to get a thrill out of sponsoring such a glorious thing. If you need a specific goal at which to shoot get us a good fibrous yellow, so that as we now walk beneath great bunches of pink and red on Rubra and Yosemite and Coralline Lucerne, we may also have bowers hung with gold.

A word of warning and one of encouragement as an ending to this, at least well meant, New Year's effusion. If you plant seed, plant a little and grow on ALL the seedlings, the Gods hide a jewel among a host of pebbles and the most precious thing in the bunch may be the smallest and weakest. In spite of pretty general belief to the contrary the prizes in the plant breeding world do not all go to the Medelians and De Vrieses, a certain notorious potato was placed by the Gods in a field of just potatoes and a careful investigator found it. The vegetable kingdom owes more to painstaking selection than to anything else, and this is a normal outcome of genuine interest. It would be safe to say that there is not a vegetable growth today that could not be vastly improved by a sequence of seed propagation with judicious selection of seed parents.

#### SOME GOOD SHRUBS FOR SAN DIEGO HEDGES

By sheer good luck, or perhaps I should say thanks to the courtesy of the Balboa Park gardener who told me the names of the shrubs I particularly admired, we have along our run-way an extremely successful and well-behaved row of shrubs which are rapidly forming a good-sized, bushy hedge, although less than three years old.

The soil on that side of our run-way is not exceptionally good, nor does the sun shine on it except at rare and extremely brief intervals, and as to irrigation, I must confess that after the first few months, I very often took advantage of the fact that most of the plants were drought-resistant and neglected them for weeks at a time. In spite of all these factors, however, there is never a day in the three hundred and sixty-five when some of them are not in bloom, and most of the time, as at present, the whole hedge is a mass of blossoms.

During the holidays, I was particularly grateful to the dainty little chorizema (*c. ilicifolia*) with its holly-like leaves and clusters of bright orange red flowers for my Christmas bouquets. It began to bloom in December and will continue all through the Spring and early Summer. My research work

tells me that this shrub "prefers a light, well-drained soil and plenty of water", but apparently, judging by my own, does not insist upon the above conditions.

Another shrub which is almost continuously in bloom is polygala (*p. apopetala*), in fact I cannot remember a day since the plants were set out that there were not at least a few blossoms on them. This shrub has a very graceful symmetrical habit of growth, and its apple-green foliage contracts beautifully with the magenta-colored pea-shaped flowers. These flowers are several times as large as the chorizema blossoms which are about the size and shape of a wild violet.

The streptosolen bushes (*s. Jamesonii*) are just beginning to bloom, and will continue to do till Summer. The foliage of this plant greatly resembles that of the heliotrope, and when in full bloom it is covered with great trusses of reddish orange blossoms, flaked with bits of brown and golden yellow.

The other two shrubs of which the hedge is composed are viburnam tinus and abelis grandiflora. The former, which is sometimes called laurustinus, has nice smooth dark-green foliage, and great flat clusters of tiny arbutus-like blossoms during the late Fall and Winter. Abelia, however, is in bloom nearly every month of the year, with trusses of small, fragrant tube-like flowers, pale pink on the outside and white inside. Its foliage is dark and glossy, and it is of such dense growth that it adapts itself to the formal designs of clipped hedges for which it is often used. A notable example of an abelia hedge is that of the State Normal College on Park Boulevard.

None of our shrubs have ever been pruned or topped or pinched back in any way (even the seed-pods drop off of their own accord), and the only care they have had has been an occasional handful of bone meal spaded in around the roots of each plant and a yearly mulch of well-rotted stable manure.

L. G. R.

#### DESERT HOLLY

An inquiry has come respecting the so-called desert holly, to know what it is, if it is a true holly, where it can be obtained, will it grow in local gardens, etc., etc.

It is in no wise related to the hollies. It is nothing but an "old salt bush" or *Atriplex*, of which a dozen species, or more, grow in Los Angeles County. Its botanical name is *A. hymenoleptrya*. It would doubtless thrive in local gardens if planted in sand or a very light, free soil. It naturally grows in sandy soils and is common on the Mohave Desert.—Western Florist.

#### CALIFORNIA FLORA

"A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California" is the title of the new book by Dr. Willis L. Jepson of the botany department at the University of California, which contains material of flora of the entire state collected over a period of more than twenty-five years. The work has more than a thousand illustrations and is planned for use by the serious amateur botanist. It is the first book of its kind covering the entire state.

"My book has been made possible only by trips into every part of California. The highest mountains, the deserts as well as the valleys and the seashore have all been visited to provide data for the handbook," Dr. Jepson said. "It is planned to have the manual serve the same purpose for botanists as an engineers' handbook does and in it every flowering plant has been dealt with accurately. Although it is a work of more than 1200 pages, it is compact and may be taken out on field trips."

Dr. Jepson is leaving the university on six months' leave to accompany Dr. Bade's archaeological expedition for Asia Minor, sailing from New York on January 7. He will spend some time with the expedition in Palestine but will also take field trips into Syria, Mesopotamia and Persia. Professor Jepson is going also on a mission for the United States Department of Agriculture, concerning which phase of his work he will confer shortly with members of the foreign seed and plant office in Washington, D. C.

Professor Jepson is the author of numerous botanical works, among which his "Trees of California," issued in 1923, in revised form, is one of the most widely known.

#### CHRYSANTHEMUMS

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M. A. WALLACE

Rt. A., Box 397

San Fernando, Calif.

**MARIPOSA TULIP OR LILY**

By Jesse A. Currey

(In Better Gardens, Portland.)

No flower native of the West has more potential value as a garden flower than the Mariposa Tulip, or Lily, as it is called. It is a family distinct to the West and members of the family, according to Carl Purdy, the California authority, are to be found from British Columbia to the Northern part of Mexico. Careful research has failed to find any but one type growing East of the Rocky Mountains and it extends only as far East as Colorado and Nebraska, therefore in considering these delightful, bright colored flowers, which the botanists group under the name of Calochortus, we can consider them natives of this Western section.

In considering this interesting family it should be first divided into three groups and those to be placed in the first group are those which bear such popular names as "Fairy Lantens" and "White Globe Tulips." These are the ones which bear the globe-shaped flowers and where the stems seem to be wrapped by the foliage. These, by the botanists, are classed as Calochorti Albus, because of their color. This particular type seems to be more at home in the coast mountains of California, but it will do well in the Pacific Northwest tamed as a wilding, but it needs deep planting.

In this same group could be placed the Yellow Globe Tulip, or Calochortus Pulchellus. Its native home is rather limited being largely around San Francisco Bay and in certain sections around Mt. Diablo. It is a most interesting and showy flower. It has just one leaf, which looks like a blade of grass and it precedes the coming of the slender flower stems, which is often surmounted with one to five and even sometimes more bright yellow flowers. As the blossom unfolds the outer segments fall back and then with a high globe center the flowers look like the miniature pin-wheels, which we as children made from paper.

A second group of the family should comprise those flowers which have the popular name of "Butterfly Tulips" on account of their bright colors and wonderful markings. This group is also the one which contains what might be said to be the real Mariposa Lily. They are natives of California. They are tall, graceful plants with erect stems, surmounted by a number of blooms in striking color and markings. On account of their bright colors, they were named by the Spaniards "La Mariposa", meaning "butterfly". These bright colored flowers are probably more extensively cultivated in Europe than in America, for they are easily tamed for the garden, as I will describe later.

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The third natural group of the Calochortus family are those which have been familiarly named "Cat's Ears" and "Star Tulips." They can be found practically all over the Pacific Coast as far south as the Bay of San Francisco, but in Oregon and Washington they flourish. This group embraces quite a number of varieties, but the two best known are the yellow and the pink and got their popular name from the fact that the petals are lined with short hair and resemble the ears of a cat. There are, however, several varieties which bear flowers practically hairless.

Despite the fact that Calochortus range over a wide area and from the deserts of California to the wettest sections of the Pacific Northwest, they are not particular as to soil and climatic conditions, thus making them ideal wildlings for taming. Bailey, in speaking of their cultivation, says: "All Calochortuses are hardy in the sense of withstanding extreme cold, but they will not endure alternate thawing and freezing so well; and thus there is the paradox of their going safely through the severe Eastern and European winters and suffering the loss of foliage in mild ones. They should be planted in the fall and it is better to plant them late, so that leaf growth is delayed until spring. Diverse as are their natural habitats, one soil will answer the needs of all. Excellent results have been secured with a mixture of equal parts of good light loam, spent tanbark and a little charcoal.

Wallace, one of the most successful English growers, recommends making a bed sloping to the south, composed of leaf-mold, road grit or coarse sand mixed in equal parts. The idea is to have a porous and not too stimulating soil, with perfect drainage. Wallace recommends covering the beds with reeds to throw off the heavy rains. The same end may be obtained by such thorough drainage that the rains pass through quickly. It is better to lift the bulbs as soon as they ripen and replant in the fall. Water sparingly at all times. Under suitable conditions they are hardy and tenacious of life, but excessive moisture is not to their liking after the flowering season arrives.

#### THE CALIFORNIA WAY

The old custom of planting hardy herbaceous perennials in spring is giving way to autumn planting in California. By planting in fall they start root action at once, and stimulated by rains become well established before spring. Because of this established root system they prove more resourceful during the hot weather of early summer.—Western Florist.

#### THE WREXHAM DELPHINIUMS

##### Remarkable Achievements of an Amateur Plant Breeder.

Great is the error of those who suppose that the professional or the commercial horticulturist must inevitably be cleverer or more successful than the amateur, for a survey of the treasures of the garden and green house will reveal the fact that a considerable portion of the greatest triumphs in plant breeding and improvement belongs to amateurs who, by their own persevering efforts, have scored brilliant success and given the world plants or strains of plants which have gladdened the hearts of the million and added to the profits of trade distributors.

A very remarkable case in point is that of Watkin Samuel, living in the quiet little market town of Wrexham, North Wales. Mr. Samuel is an enthusiast for Delphiniums and having the instincts, genius and patience of the plant breeder, he set himself some 15 years ago, to the task of breeding a race of super-giants with a character and magnificence all their own. It was no easy task for anyone to take in hand, amateur or professional, for the simple reason that the Delphinium was already a highly developed plant of which there were hundreds of grand varieties in cultivation; raisers of long experience were finding that while they might raise seedlings galore, and produce a very high percentage of really fine flowers, excellent in color, good in habit and capable of being cultivated to great size, it was becoming increasing difficult to secure anything so outstanding that it could sustain a claim to be a real advance upon the best established varieties.

Mr. Samuel, however, set himself an extremely high standard, and furthermore, he decided that he would not be content with anything the slightest bit below his standard; instead of exhibiting the halfway liners, which appeared after a few years' work, he curbed his impatience and plodded on until he secured just what he aimed at; not what only pleased and satisfied himself, but drew unstinted praise from the experts and specialists whom he invited to his Welsh garden. One after another of his visitors, marveling at the stature, the development and strength of the Wrexham Delphiniums, exclaimed, "They are like Hollyhocks," and thus the race has become popularly known as the "Hollyhock" Delphiniums.

When Mr. Samuel commenced exhibiting some three years ago, Wrexham became the Mecca of Delphinium specialists, eager to buy up the stock, but, having bred and developed the race for his own enjoyment, Mr. Samuel could not be persuaded to sell out, lock, stock and barrel. He was, however, quite willing

that the garden loving public should share his enjoyment in the flower of his production and he allowed first one and then another to select particular varieties and buy up the stock of these, needless to say making some fascinating prices for same.

Bees, Ltd. were early on the scene and secured about 20 of the most distinct varieties, some of which they have now propagated sufficiently to enable them to distribute stock through the trade as well as to retail buyers. Hewitts, Ltd., Carlile, Thompson & Morgan and others, also have some of these wonderful Wrexham Delphiniums, including the latest varieties, for all the time Mr. Samuel is forging ahead and maintaining the high standard of the race.

From so fine a stock the seed is, of course, valuable for, although the seedlings may vary considerably from the parent plants, the strain is so select that practically every seedling is good and a proportion come specially good. I am informed that Mr. Samuel has arranged with John Scheepers, Inc. of New York, that they shall have sole right of distributing seed of his stock in America, and that firm is to be congratulated upon securing such a privilege. I must, however, make it clear that this refers to the harvest of Mr. Samuel only; the latter does not, of course, control the distribution of seed taken from the varieties he has sold. My readers will, therefore, understand that it is quite possible that other seed will be advertised and sold as from named varieties of the Wrexham Hollyhock Delphiniums, it being the produce of the varieties bought outright from the raiser. John Scheepers, Inc., will handle the seed saved by Watkin Samuel from such stock as he has retained, including, no doubt, his latest and most advanced seedlings.

It is decidedly satisfactory that this remarkable strain of Delphiniums should be so vividly distributed for it is a noble one, possessing to a marked degree, the most beautiful form and delightful colors together with unusual size of individual flowers, and great stature. Watkin Samuel, of course, is a capable grower, and his garden is most favorably situated, but, for all that, he could not get his giant 7 ft., 8 ft. and even taller spikes, furnished half their length with superb flowers, if he had not first obtained the substance and quality in the stock. A remarkable feature is the girth of the base of spike, as much as 10 in. and the beautiful symmetrical build, the spike gradually tapering to a fine point, and the bottom being furnished with a glorious mass of handsome foliage.

The strength and vigor of the Wrexham strain is made most apparent when the varieties are grown near older favorites. Further, starting early into bloom, the plants are able to produce specially fine second blooms which

are doubly welcome late in the season—A. J. Macself, in Florists Exchange.

### A DESERT TRIP

*Continued from page 2*

ing thing we saw was the lily—Hesperocallis indulalus. Only a few were in bloom, but the plants with buds were everywhere. Even though the bulbs were over a foot below the ground we became enthusiastic and wanted all we could see. And another plant (prob. the Desert Sunflower, Encelia eriocephala) with its heavy and blanket-like leaves added to the landscape. But perhaps the most peculiar plant in appearance is the Desert Trumpet (*Erigonum inflatum*). This was not in bloom, in fact, we saw only the dead stems of last year, but I want to see it alive some time with its flowers.

The second night on the desert added but little to the experiences of the first. The next morning we visited the shore line of Lake Cahuilla, and found upwards of half a dozen species of fresh water fossil shells. Chief among these being the pearl clam (*Gonidea angulata*) that reflects the sunlight from the distance, and on close inspection reveals all the iridescence of its living relatives. I have always wanted to find a fossil pearl, but that is probably not within the bounds of the possible.

One quickly gets into civilization after crossing the county line into Imperial and except for a few pieces of petrified wood we found nothing of interest further. But until one has seen the sunset on the desert from a fairly high altitude, one has missed the most spectacular sight that the desert affords. Of all the grades in Southern California, I like the Mountain Springs grade best, and when one stands on the summit, and looks out onto the Superstition mountains in the foreground, and the Salton Sea beyond, and the Chocolate mountains on the Arizona border, one cannot but think of Kipling's verses about the African desert, that so well describe our own, as follows:

“Sudden the desert changes,  
The raw glare softens and clings  
Till the aching Oudtshoorn ranges  
Stand up like the thrones of kings.

Ramparts of slaughter and peril  
Blazing, amazing, aglow  
Twist the skylines belting beryl  
And the wine-dark flats below.

Royal the pageant closes  
Lit by the last of the sun  
Opal and ash of roses  
Cinnamon, umber, and dun.”

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